

Texas Disability Integration Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

Abilities Expo, Houston NRG Center – August 5 – 7, 2016

<http://www.abilities.com/houston/>

International Conference on Learning Disabilities, San Antonio – October 13 - 14, 2016 <http://www.council-for-learning-disabilities.org/professional-development/2016-annual-conference-2>

Texas Autism Conference, San Antonio – August 3 -4, 2016

<http://txautism.esc2.net/>

2016 NAMI Texas Conference, Austin – October 28-29, 2016

<http://namitexas.org/conference/>

About this Newsletter

This newsletter is published by the *Texas Disability Task Force (DTF) on Emergency Management*, an advisory group sponsored by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). The newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis and will include information, accomplishments, and initiatives related to emergency management preparedness and response activities at the local, regional, state, and organizational levels that are inclusive of people with disabilities.

If you would like to submit an article, please send an e-mail to gisela.ryan-bunger@dps.texas.gov.

Corpus Christi Conducts Hurricane Evacuation Exercise

Billy Delgado

City of Corpus Christi Emergency Management Coordinator

On Friday, June 24, the city of Corpus Christi staff, along with the Regional Transit Authority, Corpus Christi Independent



School District, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the Functional Needs Support Team (FNST) exercised plans and capabilities to evacuate citizens prior to the impact of a hurricane. Citizens volunteered to act as evacuees and went through the process of registering into the evacuation tracking system and boarded buses that would evacuate the city. The drill was successful and reacquainted participants with the processes in place for a hurricane evacuation event.



Lightning Safety Awareness Resources for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Dede Powell

State Coordinator for Operations, Texas Division of Emergency Management

The National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), estimates that



lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Lightning kills an average of 49 people in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured.

“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors” right?



What if you can't hear the thunder? What clues would you use to know to seek shelter? If you wait to feel the rumbling vibration of the thunder, it means the lightning is too close! Don't wait for the rumble!

In June NOAA announced a new partnership with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community and introduced a new set of lightning safety awareness resources for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

New Slogan and Logo

The new slogan and logo are based on sight rather than sound.

Don't forget, if you “See a Flash, Dash Inside!”



Lightning Video

NOAA produced a national video public service announcement (PSA) to promote the new safety guidance for the deaf and hard of hearing.



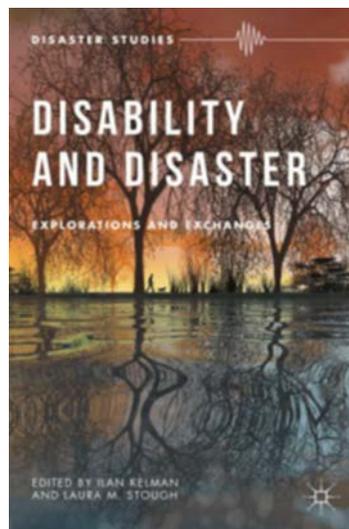
Video: Lightning safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

If you see a flash, dash inside! Some people can't rely on audible cues for lightning safety to stay weather aware. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing community depends on visual cues to know when to seek shelter. (NOAA National Weather Service)

Watch the video here: [Lightning Safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community PSA](#).

For more lightning safety information, visit the NOAA website at: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>.

Disability and Disaster: Explorations and Exchanges



Disability and Disaster adds disaster research to the expanding area of disability studies. This edited collection includes writings by international scholars as well as chapters from individuals with disabilities affected by disaster across five different continents. In this collection, the editors, Ilan Kelman and Laura M. Stough,

have embraced the call from the disability

community to write "nothing about us without us," while incorporating reflections from scholars studying why certain groups are more vulnerable to disasters than others. In 19 first-hand narratives written by individuals with disabilities and their families, these authors do not label themselves as "victims" of disaster or of disability. Rather, they portray agency and self-reliance. As such, these narratives present a counter-narrative to the assumed vulnerability and weaknesses of individuals with disabilities.

Ilan Kelman is Reader in Risk, Resilience and Global Health at University College London, UK and a Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway. His overall research interest is linking disasters and health, plus integrating climate change into disaster research and health research.

Laura M. Stough is Associate Professor of Educational Psychology and Assistant Director at the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University. Her research explores inequities in the provision of social and educational services to individuals with disabilities. As part of the emergency response to Hurricane Katrina, she served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to organizations that provide disaster relief and response.

Note

Dede Powell, State Coordinator for Operations, TDEM who published and distributed this newsletter and acted as the facilitator for the Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management since 2012, is retiring from the state after 16 years of service. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

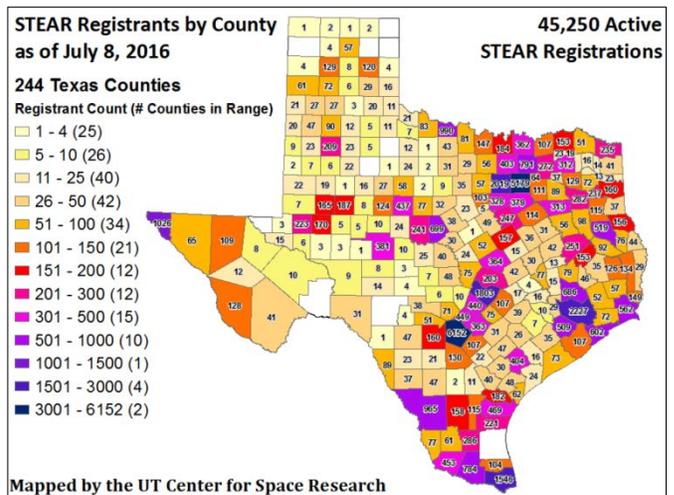
Gisela Ryan-Bunger, Operations Section Administrator, TDEM, will be joining the Disability Task Force as facilitator of the group and the new publisher of this newsletter. Please join us in welcoming her to the group.

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

Does your community have a means of identifying individuals who require additional assistance during a severe weather or emergency event?

The STEAR system was used in communities during severe weather and flooding events that occurred during the last several months. Local governments as well as search and rescue personnel can utilize the information to ensure individuals with disabilities have been evacuated when necessary. One way to do this is to ask for STEAR information to be overlaid on flood inundation maps. Additionally, this information could be used to check on individuals who have indicated they need additional care or electricity for a medical device.

The information in this type of registry could become instrumental in ensuring all of your citizens are taken care of during an emergency event.



Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management

Russell Cook, Chair
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

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